



June 27, 2014

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

John Davis
PO Box 10152
Marina Del Rey, CA 90295

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am responding to the recent emails you sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator McCarthy and others concerning the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP).

As you know, EPA is currently conducting an evaluation of the Santa Monica NEP. NEP evaluations are conducted every five years to determine whether adequate progress is being made implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) to merit continued funding under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. The evaluations include a site visit, which, for Santa Monica Bay, was conducted on June 10 – 11, 2014. The site visit included program briefings by Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program staff and field visits to some specific sites, including Malibu Lagoon, Ballona Wetlands, a boater program demonstration, kelp forest, and green infrastructure/low impact development projects.

In response to your concern about the evaluation process, I have reviewed the information you provided and the process that has been followed to date, and conclude that the evaluation is consistent with the NEP Program Evaluation Guidance (August 31, 2011). The evaluation is expected to be completed by August 30, 2014. EPA will provide the results in a final program evaluation letter to the Santa Monica NEP and ensure it is made available to the public.

In addition, you continue to raise concerns regarding the validity of the structure and financing of the Santa Monica NEP under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. I understand you have discussed these concerns over the past few years with my staff, and with other organizations, including the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Fish & Wildlife, Los Angeles County, City of Malibu, and Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District. I am reaffirming what EPA staff have stated in previous conversations and in responses to your related Freedom of Information Act requests, that the Santa Monica NEP conforms with Clean Water Act Section 320.

If you have other questions, please contact Sam Ziegler, Chief of our Watersheds Section at (415) 972-3399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Diamond".

Jane Diamond
Director
Water Division

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